

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11 and 13-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 6 and 10 are amended. These amendments are supported by Applicants' specification at least at paragraphs [0026] and [0027]. No new matter is added. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiners Evans and Gray at the interview held May 5, 2009 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 10-11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP-A-2002-304102 to Hara et al. (hereinafter "Hara"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 10 recite, among other features, a first type of predetermined regular size, or a second type of non-regular size, other than the regular size wherein regular size and non-regular size are measures of a printable area of the image recording medium.

Hara teaches pasteboard and regular paper. As agreed during the personal interview, Hara does not teach, nor would it have suggested, any size of the pasteboard and regular paper that corresponds to a printable area.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Hara cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features positively recited in claims 6 and 10. Further, Hara cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features recited in claims 11 and 14 for at least the dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 10, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hara are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara; rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,113,374 to Nakamura et al. (hereinafter "Nakamura"); and rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara in view of JP-A-63-253971 to Sugaya. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, the control means controls the photoreceptor drum, the developing means and the transfer means, based on a size of the image recording medium, wherein the size of the image recording medium is a measure of a printable area of the image recording medium.

As noted above, Hara teaches pasteboard and regular paper. As argued above, and as agreed during the personal interview, Hara would not have suggested any size of the pasteboard and regular paper that corresponds to a printable area.

As agreed during the personal interview, Nakamura and Sugaya do not remedy these shortfalls of Hara.

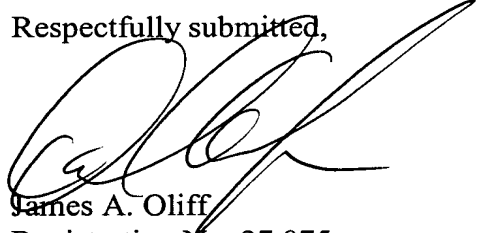
For at least the foregoing reasons, Hara, and no combination of Hara with Nakamura or Sugaya, can reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features recited in claim 1. Further, Hara, and no combination of Hara with Nakamura or Sugaya, can reasonably be considered to have suggested the combinations of all of the features recited in claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 15 for at least the dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara, Hara in view of Nakamura, and Hara in view of Sugaya are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11 and 13-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: May 15, 2009

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